

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 441
By Holcomb

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Donald H. Ellis for meritorious service to his community and the state of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is not often that a community is blessed with a truly dedicated humanitarian such as Dr. Donald H. Ellis, who as a professional, environmentalist, public servant, and exemplary citizen has touched the lives of many with his incredible spirit and has helped better his community and the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a native Tennessean, Dr. Ellis has played a leading role in the civic and community life of Bristol, Sullivan County, and upper East Tennessee for many years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ellis has given unselfishly of himself, his time and his talents to perpetuate the public good; he has been an active member of many worthy community organizations, including the Bristol Area Chamber of Commerce, serving as past chairman of the Chamber Legislative Committee; the Boys Club, serving as a board member; the Bristol Dental Society, serving as president; and the Bristol Planning Commission, serving as Chairman; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ellis has always placed a high value on community service, and as an original founder, he has spent much of his time serving valiantly with the Bristol, Tennessee Tree City USA (TCUSA) Board; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ellis has given unreservedly of himself as chairman of the Tree City USA Board for nine years; he was instrumental in the certification of TCUSA by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the Tennessee Forestry Department in 1989; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ellis has been at the forefront of Bristol's "One In A Million" campaign, an exemplary effort to plant one million trees in Bristol for the Bicentennial; he is credited with the erection of the Tree Accounting sign to engage the entire community in the progress of this admirable project; and

WHEREAS, realizing that the beauty of our communities can only be achieved through consolidated civic efforts, Dr. Ellis and the TCUSA Board have undertaken a number of other commendable projects including initiation of the annual "Chipping of the Green" project and coordination of joint Bristol, Tennessee and Bristol, Virginia Arbor Day celebrations; the TCUSA Board also participates in greenbelt projects, offers living tree memorials and honorariums, distributes tree saplings to citizens, provides informational fact sheets and brochures and oversees the creation and maintenance of a number of beautification sites; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ellis has spearheaded TCUSA's exemplary fundraising efforts, without which the Board would be unable to fund its worthy projects; he has been instrumental in the receipt of four grants for the city of Bristol which has resulted in the planting of hundreds of trees; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ellis and the TCUSA Board have established awards given periodically to recognize businesses and others who demonstrate outstanding ecological and reforestation efforts; Dr. Ellis and the Board work every day in the Bristol community and surrounding areas to encourage businesses, schools and individuals to plant trees and beautify the land, thus making invaluable contributions to the lives of future generations; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ellis's efforts do not end with Tree City USA; he works hand-in-hand with the Keep Bristol Beautiful association, and has forged an alliance between these two important groups; Dr. Ellis has been a valuable member of the Keep Bristol Beautiful Executive

Committee since 1987 and has served on the Special Projects Committee, the Christmas Spirit Awards Committee and the Wes Davis Memorial Greenbelt project committee; and

WHEREAS, lauded for his projects, which are friendly to the environment and serve to bring prestige to the Bristol area, Dr. Ellis has contributed significantly to improving the quality of life in his respected community; the Bristol community was one of only three cities to receive the "Growth Award" in 1991, an award for outstanding efforts in reforestation and tree education; and

WHEREAS, for helping to better his community and this state through unyielding dedication to causes that enrich all our lives, Dr. Ellis received the 1989 Keep Bristol Beautiful "Award of Merit" and the 1993 "Master Planter" award; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this Assembly should specially recognize this fine gentleman who has given much of his life to public service to his community and the state he dearly loves; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby salute Dr. Donald H. Ellis for his unflagging commitment and outstanding work as a community servant and thank him for his numerous contributions to Bristol and our great state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.